[1st August 1962

Hospitals and dispensaries

* 199 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to appoint any committee to go into the working of the hospitals and dispensaries run by the State; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter stands?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : (*a*) No such proposal is under consideration of this Government at the moment.

(*b*) Does not arise.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, in view of the fact that things have taken shape and the standing orders of the hospitals and dispensaries, and the pharmacopoeia have changed, does not the Hon. Minister consider it necessary to review the whole thing to make it modern?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : The hon. Member's suggestion will be taken note of.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

3 30 p.m. DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Sir, with your permission, I want to have some exact information. During question-time some questions were postponed as the Hon. Minister concerned was not present. I believe this is perhaps the first occasion when such a thing has happened. Perhaps the Minister might have communicated to you that the questions might be postponed. I wish only to state that the Cabinet is responsible for the answers to all questions and it is not the responsibility of individual Ministers. I would plead that, when questions are brought before the House, they are answered. Incidentally, I want to know what happens to these questions which are not answered.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, normally if the Minister thinks that another Minister can answer the questions, then he entrusts them to another Minister. But sometimes Ministers think that these questions should be answered by them. In those cases, they ask for the postponement of the questions and, if the Chair allows it, they are postponed; otherwise, some other Minister will answer the questions. As far as questions which have not been put to-day are concerned, they will be added to the list of questions for the next meeting.